Texoma Enterprise

May 3, 2012



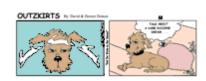
Students attend
American Chemical
Society national meeting



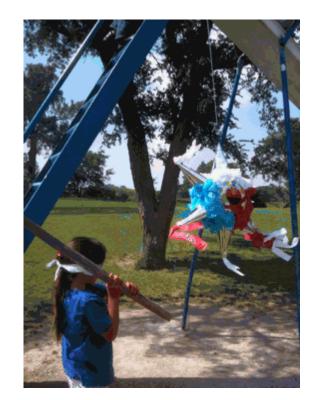
Texas

Headline

News



Humor



Dia de los Ninos/ Dia de los Libros

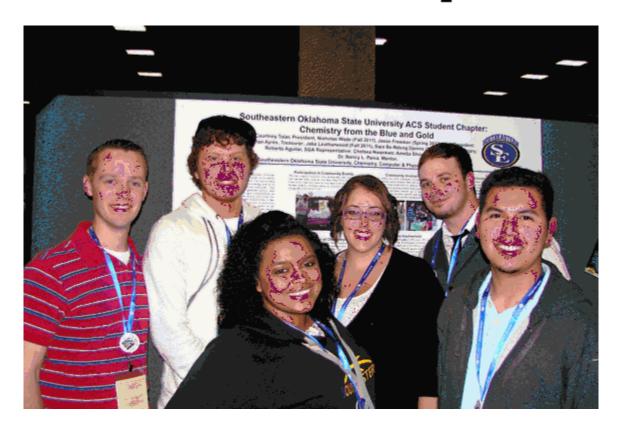




Howe Founders Day and Car Show



Texoma Enterprise



Cutline - Representing Southeastern at the ACS national meeting were Brian Ayres, Tyler Shannon, Chelsea Nwankwo, Amelia Showalter, Tristan Smith, and Roberto Aguilar.

Students attend American Chemical Society national meeting

DURANT, Okla. - Several representatives of Southeastern Oklahoma State University's Student Members Chapter of the American Chemical Society (ACS) attended the National ACS Spring 2012 meeting in San Diego, Calif.

The Southeastern delegation included Brian Ayres (Madill senior), chapter vice president for 2011-12; Amelia Showalter (Pottsboro, Texas, senior), newly-elected president for 2012-13; and members Roberto Aguilar (McKinney, Texas, senior); Chelsea Nwankwo (Leonard, Texas, senior); Tristan Smith (Atoka senior); and Tyler Shannon (Poteau freshman).

The students were accompanied by Chapter Mentor Dr. Nancy L. Paiva and Dr. Teresa Golden

The event was attended by more than 16,000 chemistry professionals and students from across the country, making it one of the largest ACS meetings ever held.

The overall theme was "Chemistry of Life," and featured lectures by Noble Prize winners and other famous scientists working in chemistry fields related to medicine, biofuels and biochemistry, as well as other diverse areas.

In addition to attending technical lectures, observing chemical demonstrations, speaking with graduate-school representatives, viewing chemistry-related exhibits from vendors and enjoying various social events, the group also attended certain events related to the Southeastern chapter.

The Southeastern students presented a "Successful Chapters" poster titled "Southeastern Oklahoma State University ACS Student Chapter: Chemistry from the Blue and Gold," which described their activities during the past year.

At the awards ceremony, Southeastern received a plaque to commemorate the honorable-mention award for last year's chapter activities.

Paiva said, "After attending this meeting, I think all of the Southeastern undergrads appreciate more what their ACS professional organization does for its members, as well as for advancing scientific breakthroughs which can lead to improved health and jobs."



Howe's That

by Lana Rideout

I recently read the book, *The Secret Garden*. I had seen the movie but I had never read the book.

For Christmas I received a Kindle as a gift from my husband. I wanted it mainly to take a Bible to church. It fits in my purse

When my husband purchased the Kindle, he put several books on

I really enjoyed *The Secret Garden*. It was easy to read the story and get really involved in what was happening. When I read the last page, I was happy at the ending but almost sad that I had finished the book.



Sensational Spinach Pie

1 pound Italian sausage, casing removed, cooked, crumbled

8 ounces ricotta cheese

8 ounces Mexican Velveeta shredded cheese

1 (10 ounce) package frozen spinach, thawed and drained

1 (8 ounce) herb and garlic soft cream cheese

4 ounces shredded mozzarella cheese

2 eggs, beaten

1/2 teaspoon hot sauce

1 package refrigerated pie crust (2 crusts)

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Mix first six ingredients with the two eggs and hot pepper sauce until well blended. On lightly floured surface roll out pie crust to 12 inch circle and put in pie plate. Fill with sausage mixture. Roll remaining crust and put on top of pie. Brush with egg and bake 35 to 40 minutes. Serve warm or at room

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Doris Hayes, formerly of Elm House Antiques (at 710 N Elm in Sherman) is now located in A Touch of Class Antique Mall on the Square in downtown Sherman, Booth 115. Same fine quality & eclectic collections of fine art, glass, china & pottery.



Gunter Library & Museum

Gunter Library & Museum celebrated Dia de los Ninos/ Dia de los Libros (Children's Day / Book Day) in Gunter park on Saturday, April 28.

Thirteen children gathered to listen to *The Ballerina with Webbed Feet* by Pam Van Scoyoc, read in Spanish and English.

Approximately 25 children participated in the breaking of the piñata. Afterwards children chose free books provided by the Gunter Library. Dia is an annual celebration of children and reading, which emphasizes the importance of advocating literacy for children of all linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

The Gunter genealogy and family research group, which usually meets on the second Saturday of each month, has postponed its meeting to Saturday May 19, at 2 pm. Bring your family notes and learn how to search census records with Heritage Quest, on the Texas State Library's TexShare databases. Learn about the 1940 census, which has just been released.

On Saturday, May 19, from 5-7 pm, the Gunter Library welcomes you to bring your guitar, or banjo, or other musical instrument to our first Open Mike Nite @ the Library. This is your chance to jam with Friends. If you don't play an instrument, come and listen.

The Brown Bag Book Discussion group will meet at the Gunter Library on May 23 at 12 noon.

Bring your lunch and join our discussion of Kristin Hannah's newest novel, *Home Front*. This is the story of Black Hawk pilot Jolene Zarkades who is deployed to Iraq, leaving behind her attorney husband Michael to be a single parent to their two girls.

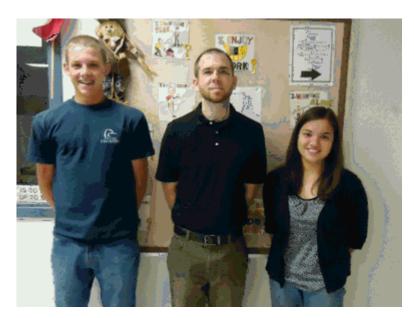
For more information about the Gunter Library & Museum, pick up a bookmark at the library with our May programs, and a flyer announcing our summer reading activities, with the theme "Get a Clue – at the Library!"











April Teacher and Students

Howe High School recently selected a teacher and students of the month for April. Receiving the teacher award was Theater Director and English teacher **Saul Wright**. Mr. Wright graduated from Texas State University and has taught at Howe for eleven years. In his eight years as Theater Director, he has produced seven One-Act plays that have advanced in UIL competition. He also is the HHS UIL Academic Director and has had ten students compete in the UIL Academic State meet in the last five years. His journalism team has been Regional champions the last two years. Mr. Wright and his wife, Lisa, have two daughters, Mia and Seraphim. Outside of school, he enjoys reading, attending theater productions, and playing Quidditch.

Representing the freshmen and sophomores is sophomore **Brice Harvey II**. The son of Keri and Brice Harvey, Brice has attended Howe schools since Kindergarten and is involved in basketball and baseball. In his spare time, Brice hunts, fishes, and participates in other outdoor sports. The junior-senior representative is junior **Kristen Ross**. The daughter of Michael and Tina Ross, Kristen has attended HISD for twelve years and participates in track, cross country, tennis, band, Student Council, PALS, National Honor Society, and UIL Journalism. In her spare time, Kristen enjoys biking, music, tennis, and independent research.



Howe Elementary "Top Dogs" for the week ending April 27th are: Kolby Hopper, Sarah Martin, Cassidy Anderson, Riley Underwood, Kayle Chapman, David Huerta, Kendell Posey, Blain Nuncio, Lindsey Hymel, Teagan Stubblefield, Carter Layton, Kade Murphy, and Mikaylah Komoroski.

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Howe Founders Day and Car Show





Matthew Shepherd with his pick-up



Freddie Holcomb's pick-up that he bought brand new when he first started teaching



Old fad - new again Hula-Hooping it up at Founders Day

Click Here for more Howe



Accelerated Reader Goal - 5th Six Weeks

Kindergarten: Casie Adams, Catelyn Armstrong, Ebenezer Chawn, Nicole Garcia, Garrett Gibbs, Jaeden Howard, Kelcey Ireland, Alex Jones, Carter Layton, Zeb Montgomery, Jacob Ortega, Autumn Owens, Emery Snapp, Payton Stapleton, Mahlon Walker, Caden Garner, Kayley Laubhan, Cheyenne Mathews, Gracie Max, Brooklyn McCaleb, Lucas Mitchell, Railyn Murphy, Jenna Roper, Dakota Smith, Gage Troxtell, Riley Troxtell, Mia Wilson, Brayden Bahr, Dax Foster, Shianne Freeman-Williams, Emma Hitesman, Cassie Morrison, Kade Murphy, Kolin Murphy, Sandra Nitchman, Juanita Olivarez, Jesse Portman, Haley Richardson, Fisher Robertson, Matalee Stewart, Ashton Trevino, Charlie Vera, Emry Woods, Nathan Wooten, Kenneth York, Cody Adams, Camryn Boatman, Zoey Bolen, Mary Burris, Ryleigh Craven, Ainsley Denham, Ashton Foster, Kendall Griffin, Willis Husband, Lacy Hymel, Mikaylah Komorowski, Gabby McMillen, Zadrian Morris, Morgan Pitt, Lucas Reese, Thomas Roberson

First Grade: Bettye Delavan, Daniel Gonzalez, Danielle Hargrove, Korben Kemp, Dalton Laisy, Jacob McGill, Madison Morrow, Linda Segura, Teagan Stubblefield, Yair Ayala, Mackenzie Bryant, Vel Chin, Jentrie Doty, Tate Harvey, Ryan Hough, Colton Little, Janna Nitchman, Keira Robertson, Ethan Strunc, Jacob Upchurch, Korie Bouse, Jordan Brunner, Carson Daniels, Ethan Duer, Connor Gauntt, Christina Harper, Dabney Henry, Edith Hernandez, Jalie Hill, Audie Martin, Connor Martin, Brody McCollum, Landon Oswalt, Taylor Reynolds, James Richardson, Ariana Ross, Antonio Tapia, Leo Becerra, Kaylyn Bryant, Ayden Burris, Kelly Caballero, Dakota Tinker, Stone Trevino

Second Grade: Stanley Bik, Jaden Bryant, Michelle Caballero, Ethan Conrad, Ashley Crees, Jaryn Grisham, Jaicob Husband, Ramie Mosse, Conner Record, Gavin Richardson, Caleb Searcey, Trinity Williams, Hagen York, Sabian Acevedo, Jessica Bastida, Harley Brockelman, Jared Brussow, Zakry DeFrange, Will Fleming, John Griffin, Ethan Lopez, Katie Parker, Parker Pecina, Ricky Ramirez, Avery Snapp, Ben Speed, Caleb Wahrmund, Eli Wilson, Kevin Bateman, Luke Catching, Louis Gonzalez, Emma Harvey, Lindsey Hymel, Austin Jones, Niko Longoria, Luke Lopez, Caleb Maddison, Zoey Moore, Kaitlyn Fuhr, Riley Griffith, David Rocha, Aiden Roulette, Ethan Turner

Third Grade: Mariana Cano, Erin Catching, Kayle Chapman, Sierra Copeland, Ruvy Enriquez, Jacob Fabacher, Alex Hernandez, Raul Hernandez, Cameron Lankford, Elizabeth Robertson, Kriston Harris, Kameron Hopper, David Huerta, Luke Jackson, Brooke Robinson, Austin Thurman, Grace Brennan, Holly Cavender, Hannah Dwyer, Ramon Rocha, Korbyn Thompson, Brett Burnett, Katie Grogan, Makayla Hanson, Sean Husband, Grace Lankford, Lilly Viers

Fourth Grade: Karsyn Fleming, Taylor Hinkle, Valerie Langford, Sarah Martin, Braden Monroe, Nayely Ayala, Hally Bollier, Lane Griffin, Kaleigh Smith, Bailey Bond, Robin Cung, Ivonne Delgado, Mack Freeman, Jenna Honore, Kacie Morgan, Jacob Roper, Cindy Torres, Jackson Wilson, Molly Wilson, Kira Allen, Kaden Bateman, Paetyn Ford, Kylie Hopper, Zane Hughes, Waylon Knowles, Ethan Sloat, Arturo Lowder

Accelerated Reader Top Ten - 5th Six Weeks

Second Grade: Zak DeFrange, Ethan Lopez, Caleb Wahrmund, Eli Wilson, Connor Record, Ricky Ramirez, Avery Snapp, Kaitlyn Fuhr, Jared Brussow, David Rocha

Third Grade: Lizzy Robertson, Grace Brennan, Alex Hernandez, David Huerta, Kameron Hopper, Korbyn Thompson, Jacob Fabacher, Brett Burnett, Cameron Lankford, Lilly Viers

Fourth Grade: Robin Cung, Valerie Langford, Molly Wilson, Kira Allen, Kylie Hopper, Mack Freeman, Waylon Knowles, Ethan Sloat, Jacob Roper, Jackson Wilson

HES Perfect Attendance -- 5th Six Weeks

Kindergarten: Dax Foster, Shianne Freeman, Kolin Murphy, Sandra Nitchman, Haley Richardson, Matalee Stewart, Emry Woods, Caden Garner, Cheyenne Mathews, Jenna Roper, Jonathan Smith, Willie Husband, Lacy Hymel, Mikaylah Komoroski, Marcos Tapia, Gabby McMillen, Ebenezer Chawn, Garrett Gibbs, Jaeden Howard, Kelcey Ireland, Autumn Owens, Mahlon Walker, Kayley Laubhan, Courtney White

First Grade: Danielle Hargrove, Jacob McGill, Linda Segura, Teagan Stubblefield, Yair Ayala, Mackenzie Bryant, Hunter Hance, Tate Harvey, Cody McGill, Janna Nitchman, Ethan Strunc, Korie Bouse, Christina Harper, Jalie Hill, James Richardson, Emma Sutherland, Ayden Burris, Hayden Calhoun, Jesus Garcia, Luke Hardy, Andrew Harper, Marshall Larson, Gabrielle Vera

Second Grade: Jessica Bastida, Jared Brussow, Zakry DeFrange, Will Fleming, Katie Parker, Riley Griffith, Colby Hopper, Kailyn Ireland, Stanley Bik, Jaden Bryant, Jaicob Husband, Gavin Richardson, Caleb Searcey, Kevin Bateman, Cierra Brussow, Emma Harvey, Lindsey Hymel, Luke Lopez, Caleb Maddison

Third Grade: Mariana Cano, Erin Catching, Kayle Chapman, Karrah Gardner, Tatum Hartsfield, Raul Hernandez, Cameron Lankford, Braeden Wise, Camryn Adams, Gabriel Hariman, Kriston Harris, Brooke Robinson, Pablo Segura, Austin Thurman, Leah Trevino, Leah Butcher, Hannah Dwyer, Kamryn Gardner, Destiny Wood, Ava Bader, Brett Burnett, Makayla Hanson, Sean Husband, Seth Key, Crista Timmons

Fourth Grade: Karsyn Fleming, Taylor Hinkle, Mikayla Hudek, Valeria Langford, Sarah Martin, Braden Monroe, Lukas Peacock, Brian Timmons, Hailey Upchurch, Hally Bollier, Ireland Bryant, Layton Elvington, Colton Thurman, Bethany Van Deren, Bailey Bond, Hunter Brussow, Logan Farrell, Kacie Morgan, Cindy Torres, Molly Wilson, Jada Wood, Zoie DeFrange, Kaden Bateman, Morgan Dyer, Paetyn Ford, Kylie Hopper, Zane Hughes, Waylon Knowles, Kaley Norton



Click Here for more Howe

Howe Elementary Pre-K & Kindergarten Registration

May 1st - May 30th 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

The following items are required for registration

- 1. Shot Record
- 2. Birth Certificate
- 3. Social Security Card
- 4. Drivers License
- 5. Proof of Residence (utility bill, lease agreement, your name must appear on proof)
- 6. Proof of income (Pre-K Only)

Qualifications for Pre-K are as follows:

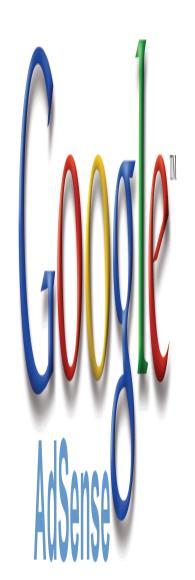
Unable to speak and comprehend the English Language. Economically disadvantaged (participate in the National School Lunch Program)

Homeless

Be the child of a member of the armed forces of the United States military forces, reserved component of the armed forces, who was injured or killed while serving on active duty. Have ever been in the conservatorship (foster care) of the Department of Family and Protective Services



Howe Elementary 3rd and 4th grade Gifted and Talented students, Alex Blount, Brett Burnett, and Taylor Hinkle are pictured with Deuce the Frisco Roughrider's Mascot. They recently enjoyed a field trip to a Roughrider's baseball game.







Texoma Enterprise



Tom Bean FCCLA members Advance to National competition!

Tom Bean High School FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America) members Lindsey Holder and Brianna Stowers are advancing to National STAR event competition in July! Their district-wide anti-tobacco chapter service project, KICKING BUTTS AND TAKING NAMES, won first place in State competition with a perfect composite score of 100 points.

Competing against the top six achievers from each of five Texas regions (1A - 5A schools), Holder and Stowers planned and coordinated their FCCLA's KICKING BUTTS project. The project involved peer education for fourth and fifth graders, Middle School students, and High School students. Motivational speaker Travis Reed spoke at an area-wide anti-tobacco rally at Tom Bean High School. These efforts and more earned recognition in national publications, including the Wall Street Journal and Houston Chronicle. Holder and Stowers then competed with their entry which involved a large trifold display, a 7 minute oral presentation to a panel of judges, and spontaneous answers to judges' questions.

National FCCLA Conference this year will be held from July 7 - 12 in Orlando, Florida.

Tom Bean FCCLA members place 5th. at State!

Tom Bean High School FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) members Bonnie Billings, Candace Johnson, and Taylor Stephens placed 5th among 30 entries in this year's State FCCLA STAR event competition. Top competitors from across Texas (1A - 5A schools) presented a project to a panel of judges, including a 7 minute speech, a large trifold display board, and answers to spontaneous judges' questions.

Billings, Johnson and Stephens planned and coordinated a chapter Focus on Children project. The entire FCCLA chapter spent a day at the Tom Bean elementary school, presenting "Your Home is Your Castle ... Protect Your Family From Fire!", using games and learning activities designed to teach fire safety.

Tom Bean Softball Playoff series info

\$5.00 adults \$3.00 students District, Senior Citizen, and TGCA passes will be accepted

Game 1 7:30 Thursday (5-3-12) Tom Bean versus Paradise @ Lake Dallas

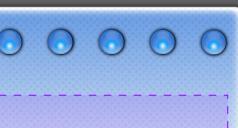
Game 2 12:30 Saturday (5-5-12) Paradise versus Tom Bean @ Lake Dallas

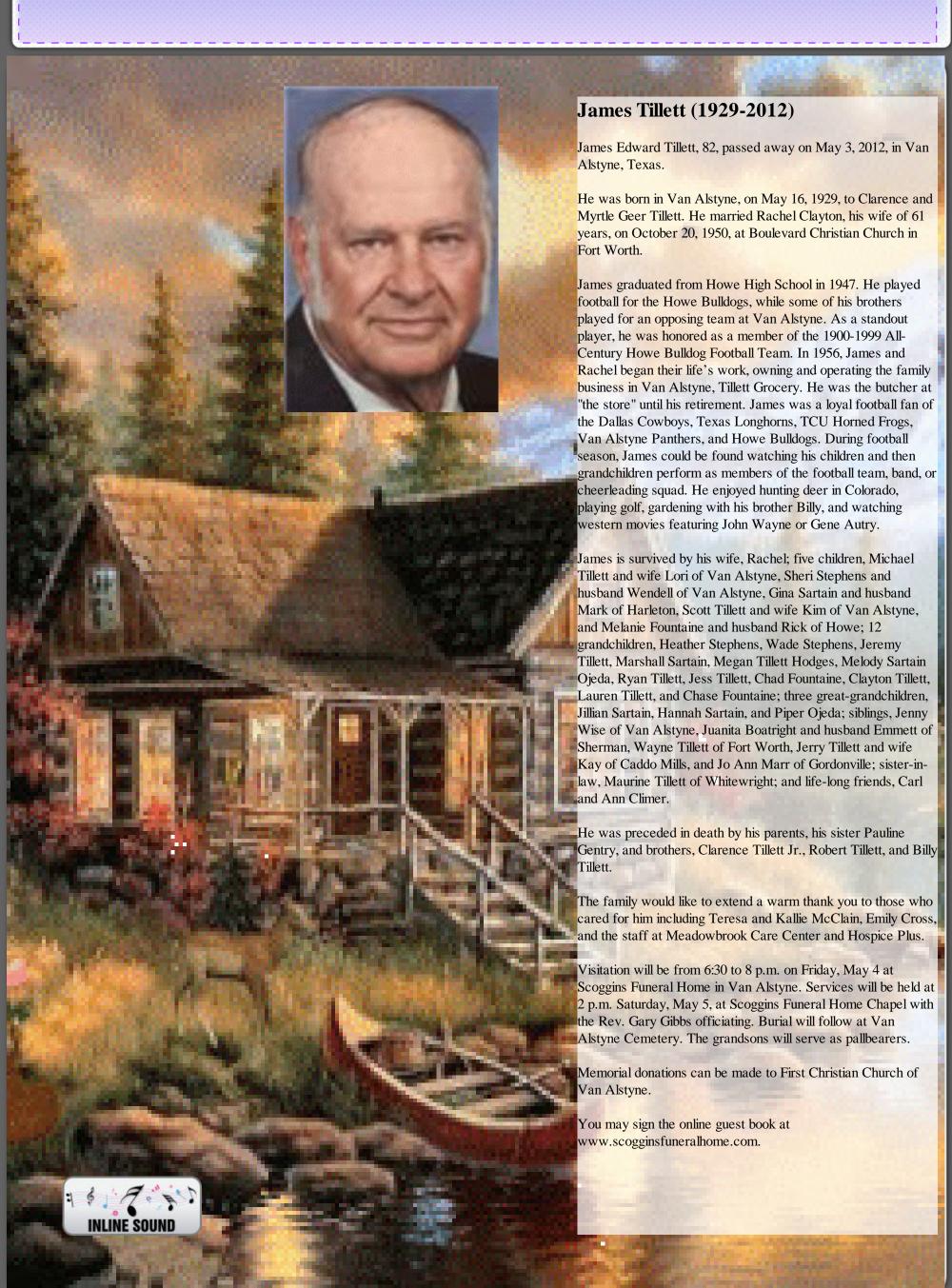
Game 3 IF NECESSARY Saturday (20 minutes following game 2) Tom Bean versus Paradise @ Lake Dallas





Texoma Enterprise •





Chrystal Opry House Benefit Event

We are hosting an Appreciation Benefit for Glen Bonham on May 11 and May 12. May 11 we will have four bands, and opportunities to purchase raffle tickets. Music will begin at 6 pm (doors will open at 5.) Bands for Friday night are The Full Quiver, The Upper Grassmen, Melody Ranch Ramblers and Bonham Review. \$10 is the suggested donation for admission.

Saturday's events begin at noon. A cornbread and beans lunch/snack will be available for \$2.50 while supplies last. Proceeds from this will benefit Glen. The raffles will continue throughout the day as well as a silent auction, baked goods auction and music. Bands that will play (in no particular order) are Mark Phillips & IIIrd Generation Bluegrass Band, Brigade, The Upper Grassmen, Melody Ranch Ramblers, Karl Shiflett, Mack Smith and Bill Grant. It should be an enjoyable day with lots going on.

The concession area will be open and has brisket sandwiches and hot dogs as well as coffee, soda, water, popcorn, and candy.

The Chrystal Opry House is located 1.5 miles west of Tom Bean or 6 miles east of Howe on FM 902 and a half mile south on White Mound Road. No alcohol is permitted and there is no smoking inside the building.

Individuals or bands interested in performing at the Chrystal Opry House should contact Bill Hayes at 903-546-6893 or http://www.chrystalopryhouse.com

TCOG Publishes Summertastic! 2012 Summer Youth Activity Guide

SUMMERTASTIC!

2012 Annual Summer Youth Guide Now Available

Summertastic! the 2012 Summer Youth Activity Guide is now available. The guide is produced by TCOG's 2-1-1 Texas program and features local family friendly summer activities available in Cooke, Fannin, and Grayson counties as well as Southern Oklahoma. The guide will be distributed to area school districts, libraries, Chambers of Commerce and local businesses and is available online at:

www.tcog.com/summertastic<http://www.tcog.com/summertastic>. For more information about the activity guide contact Judy Fullylove at 903-813-3549 or jfullylove@texoma.cog.tx.us.

Chrystal Opry House Bluegrass Event

On Thursday, May 3rd at 7 pm we will host a bluegrass jam. Come with your instrument and sit in, or come to listen. Jammers make some good music! No admission but we do have a donation jar to defray expenses.

On May 5 we host two wonderful bluegrass bands: Bluefield Express and Bolton Family Bluegrass.

Members of Bluefield Express are Jay Parker, guitar and vocals, Mona Parker, bass and vocals, Kenny Williams, banjo, Cody Crabtree, mandolin and vocals. They did an awesome performance Saturday night at our Gospel Festival.

Sam Bolton (of Hard 2 Git) was not ready to quit when that band disbanded. Bolton Family Bluegrass includes Sam, guitar and vocals, Reva, bass and vocals, Jeff, guitar, banjo, and Kay, mandolin.

Doors open at 6 pm for a 7 pm performance. Admission to this event is \$6 for adults with children under 12 admitted free. The concession area has brisket sandwiches and hot dogs as well as coffee, soda, water, popcorn, and candy.

The Chrystal Opry House is located 1.5 miles west of Tom Bean or 6 miles east of Howe on FM 902 and a half mile south on White Mound Road. No alcohol is permitted and there is no smoking inside the building.

Individuals or bands interested in performing at the Chrystal Opry House should contact Bill Hayes at 903-546-6893 or http://www.chrystalopryhouse.com









Riders Cover 29 Miles on Day 2 of W100 at Palo Duro Canyon State Park

Former President George W. Bush again led the charge on Day 2 of the second-annual W100 Wounded Warrior mountain bike ride, which covered 29 miles of scenic and winding mountain bike trails at Palo Duro Canyon State Park in the Texas Panhandle. Saturday's conclusion of the ride is set to go an additional 14 miles for the former Chief Executive and the 20 U.S. servicemen and women who were wounded during battles in Iraq and Afghanistan.

With a break from Thursday's triple-digit heat, Mr. Bush also paused for a brief press conference early Friday afternoon.

"Palo Duro Canyon is a spectacular place. To be here with these people who have sacrificed so much, and being out biking with them while the sun is coming up on the beautiful scenery in the canyon—well, I think it's one of the most unique and special moments in my adult life," he said.

For more information about the W100, contact State Parks Public Affairs Rep. Bryan Frazier at (512) 826-8703, or visit www.w100k.com.

(TPWD Photo by Bryan Frazier)



Executive Support

During the morning of the final day of the W100 Wounded Warrior mountain bike ride at Palo Duro Canyon State Park, former President George W. Bush (left) and event volunteer Kyle McAdams of Amarillo (right) assist Wounded Warrior Dan Gade of West Point, NY, up a steep incline along one of the many single-track trails at the Park. Despite injuries and trauma suffered in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Wounded Warriors courageously completed the challenging, three-day, 100k ride alongside their former commander-in-chief, including Saturday's final stretch that covered 19.4 miles.

For more information about the W100, visit www.w100k.com. Or for more information about Palo Duro Canyon State Park, call (806) 488-2227, or visit www.texasstateparks.org.

(TPWD Photo by Bryan Frazier)







Howe, Texas 75459

Texas Travel and Tourism Week - Event

The Texas Department of Transportation brings travel supporters together to shine a spotlight on travel*s impact on local employment and the economy.

What: Travel Rally Day shines a spotlight on the economic and employment impact created in North Texas from spending by leisure and business travelers. The jobs of local hospitality workforce * and millions of dollars in local/state tax base' are supported by the vital economic activity generated by travel and tourism.

Visitors are encouraged to stop by and visit with our tourism partners, pick up travel information and enjoy the numerous activities and entertainment provided throughout the day.

When: Friday, May 11, 2012; 11 am - 2 pm.

Where: Texas Travel Information Center at Denison 6801 US 69/75 Denison, Texas 75020 (903) 463-2860

Who: The following travel industry representatives from North Texas will be on site:

- ·Denison Chamber of Commerce
- ·Denison Main Street
- ·Sherman Tourism
- ·Eisenhower State Park
- ·Eisenhower Historic Birthplace
- ·Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge
- ·Perrin AFB Museum

In addition to tourism information being distributed, visitors can enjoy the various activities and entertainment provided throughout the day:

ACTIVITIES:

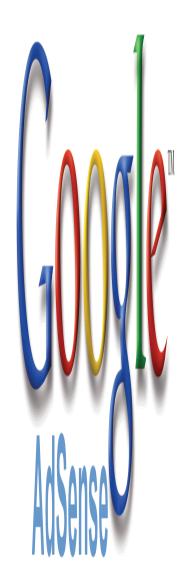
·Enjoy hot dogs and drinks!

ENTERTAINMENT:

·Live music!

Why: Travel and tourism is one of America's largest employers, supporting 14.4 million jobs nationwide. In 2010 visitor spending in Grayson County resulted in \$2,190,000.00 in local taxes, \$11,990,000.00 in State taxes and generated \$190,550,000.00 in total spending.

For more information call Tray Turner, TxDOT Public Information Officer, (903) 737-9213





DPS Urges Motorists to Use Caution Around Motorcyclists May is Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month

AUSTIN - The Texas Department of Public Safety is reminding drivers to take extra precautions around motorcyclists on Texas streets and highways, as Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month begins May 1.

"Motorcyclists face unique safety challenges on Texas roads because they are smaller, more difficult to see and less protected than cars and trucks," said DPS Director Steven McCraw. "Motorcyclists can protect themselves on the road by obeying traffic laws and wearing their helmets. Motorists can help by looking twice for motorcycles and giving them additional space."

DPS recommends all drivers "Share the Road" and "Look Twice" for motorcycles, which are public awareness campaigns that highlight motorcycle safety. Motorists should take caution, especially at intersections and when changing lanes - the two places where serious motorcycle collisions occur. Half of all fatal motorcycle crashes in Texas occur because the car or truck driver never saw the motorcyclist.

The number of motorcyclists killed annually since 2000 has more than doubled, from 196 in 2000 to 472 in 2011. The 472 motorcycle drivers and passengers who lost their lives in Texas accounted for 16 percent of traffic deaths in the state. Eighty-seven percent of motorcycle crashes result in death or injury of the motorcyclist. The number of motorcycles on Texas roadways has more than doubled in the last decade.

Motorcyclist must be properly licensed to operate a motorcycle in the State of Texas. The DPS Motorcycle Safety Unit coordinates training courses at more than 200 locations around the state for both basic and experienced riders.

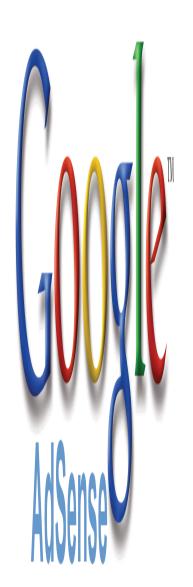
For more information on motorcycle training, please call 1-800-292-5787 or visit www.dps.texas.gov/msb<http://www.dps.texas.gov/msb>.

Wanted: Preschool toys

I am a teacher at a preschool learning facility. We are looking for any type of donation. From toys to bikes to teaching supplies, high chairs, bibs, balls, infant/toddler/pre-k toys. Even anything you may think a school-ager would enjoy doing, books, games etc. also clothes in case of accidents or spills. Anything would be greatly appreciated. Thank you and God bless. Terri

Terri babytger65@yahoo.com> ShermanTXFreecycle







Texoma Enterprise

LET'S REMINISCE: GONE TO TEXAS

By Jerry Lincecum

There was a saying in post-Civil War Tennessee: "He's GTT." It meant, "Gone to Texas" and often implied leaving behind debts and other obligations. Texas being a relative latecomer to the civilized world, many of its citizens can tell you interesting stories about when their ancestors arrived and where they came from. Occasionally the "why" they left home is the best part.

Take Joe Roman, who came to Gordonville, Texas, in 1885. The family has two versions of his sudden departure from Tennessee, both of which involve his shooting a man and thinking he escaped a murder charge. The wounded man recovered, however, and Joe's father Bob paid him \$300.

Bob's will specified that the \$300 settlement should be deducted from his son Joe's portion of the estate. However, about six years after the boy's arrival in Texas, his father visited Joe and his family. While he didn't change his will, he wrote the following to the two men named to serve as executors of his will: "Do not charge Joe the \$300 I specified, because he is one of the poorest men I have ever seen."

Going even farther, when Bob Roman got back home to Tennessee he shipped his son a good horse, a jack, a jenny, and two sacks of oats. Joe began breeding these animals and was soon making a good living for his family.

In another case of GTT, my mother's father, C.D. Jones, also came to Texas from Tennessee. Our family legend is that his older half-brother (same father, different mother), Robert W. Jones, came first to central Texas and began the practice of medicine in the Oletha community (Limestone County).

Dr. Jones, some months after getting settled, overheard two school board members lamenting in June the fact that the local school they supervised had no teacher for the upcoming fall term.

He said, "Gentlemen, I have a brother in Tennessee who is qualified to teach."

"Send for him!" was their response, and he wrote the letter that brought his younger brother to join him in Oletha. Shifting now from legend to documented fact, C.D. Jones turned 21 on July 1, 1892, while on the train to Texas.

One more GTT story. Because my great-great grandfather Gideon Lincecum came to this state in 1835 and then moved his entire family here from Mississippi, I am a sixth-generation Texan and proud of it. A man who wanted to shield his children from the damages of civilized life, Gid fell in love with the abundance of natural wonders and the sparseness of population he found in Texas.

When Gid's grandson George W. Lincecum married in 1871, he and his bride moved into Robertson County. And in 1940, G.W.'s grandson Jack courted the daughter of C.D. Jones, in the next county over. Two years later, I was born in Texas.

What are your family stories about coming to Texas? I'd enjoy receiving them and might work them into a future column: jlincecum@me.com.

-30

Jerry Lincecum is a retired English professor who now teaches classes for older adults who want to write their life stories. He would like to read your reminiscences on any subject.



Texoma Enterprise

Casablanca's East Texan

By Bob Bowman

When you talk to East Texas movie buffs about their favorite all-time films, the one everyone places near the top is Casablanca, a seventy-year-old love story made in 1942 starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman.

But few know that an East Texan, Dooley Wilson, played a significant role in the film -- not necessarily as a part of the plot, but as the piano player who sang "As Time Goes By," the classic theme which ranks among filmdom's top movie songs.

An African-American, Wilson was born as Arthur Wilson on April 3, 1886, in Tyler.

He reportedly played in black clubs around Tyler before moving to Chicago, where he earned his nickname in 1908, the result of his signature Irish song, "Mr. Dooley" while playing at the Pekin Theater. He performed the role in whiteface.

Because of his role in Casablanca, history has forever associated Wilson with the piano. But Dooley never played one. He only sang and sometimes used the drums.

Dooley performed on Broadway in the early forties and his breakthrough appearance came in the role of Little Joe, a stereotypic lazy rascal in the musical, "Cabin in the Sky." He also played an escaped slave in "Bloomer Girl" and his performance of the song, "The Eagle and Me," was included in a Smithsonian compilation of American theater songs.

While Casablanca established Dooley's reputation on the silver screen, it wasn't his first film. He had already played in more than twenty motion pictures when the Casablanca film came along. For his role, he was paid





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By Dorothy N. Fowler

I am accustomed to dealing with animals who are smarter than I am.

Gucci, my rescue Pomeranian, knows exactly what she has to do to get her nocturnal belly rub. After I put her on our bed (notice that I did not write my bed), she immediately goes to the foot and lies down to nap until I lie down. Then she runs toward me, lays her head on my chest, looks into my eyes and rolls over, making sounds that you would swear are purrs.

This is behavior that is fairly recent; for more than two years Gucci would not let me touch her belly, much less roll over to get a belly rub. I wish she had been able to tell me why she was so hesitant to trust me or why she changed her mind, but when she did, she was able to make it perfectly clear what she wanted.

Booger, the Yorkie who came to us as an eight-week-old, had a severe case of kennel cough within days of his arrival. He needed medication every four hours for several weeks, a regimen that required me to take him with me everywhere I went and to set the alarm to wake me at midnight and four a.m. to keep him on schedule. He is a fierce little watchdog who avoids the almost newly arrived cats, having watched one of them slap Gucci into the middle of next week. Vicarious learning is a sure sign of intelligence.

Angel Bear, the Schnauzer I brought home when she was six weeks old fourteen years ago, has diabetes and is blind from cataracts. She gets around in the backyard better than I do, walks through the doggy door without hesitation and patiently waits to get her insulin and the eye drops that keep her going.

Then there are the cats, Mame and Mehitabel, aka Bel, who apparently were abandoned by someone in the neighborhood. They had their choice of any house on the block, five of which are inhabited by widows, but they picked my house, probably because there is some kind of invisible hex mark indicating that a sucker lives here. Bel, whose five kitten litter







BOB BOWMAN'S

EAST TEXAS, continued

\$350 a week. By comparison, Sydney Greenstreet was paid \$3,750 a week.

If you remember the film, Sam was a singer and pianist employed by Rick (Humphrey Bogart). "As Time Goes By," written by Herman Hupfield, appears as a continuing musical and emotional motif throughout the film.

Dooley's rendition of the song is remembered for itself, as well as for its cinematic associations. About a year ago, a television show ranked the movies' top songs -- and "As Time Goes By" was among the top three, along with "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" and "Singing in the Rain."

Since Dooley couldn't play the piano, his playing in the film was actually done by Elliott Carpenter, who was placed on the set where Wilson could see him and imitate his hand movements. The only black people on the Casablanca set, Wilson and Carpenter remained lifelong friends.

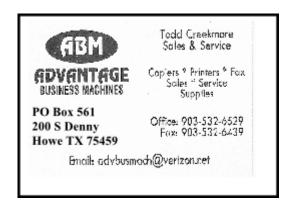
Dooley almost didn't get the Casablanca role. Ella Fitzgerald, a popular singer in the forties, was considered for the part and Dooley's Sam might have been Ella's Molly.

Ironically, Humphrey Bogart's role as saloon owner Rick was originally supposed to be a young Ronald Reagan. George Raft, another popular actor in the forties, was a second choice.

Dooley died on May 30, 1953, in Los Angeles. He was buried in Rosedale Cemetery, a favorite resting place for politicians, notably former mayors of Los Angeles.

(Bob Bowman of Lufkin is the author of more than 50 books about East Texas history and folklore. He can be reached at bobbowman.com)





Dot's Dashes, continued

has been adopted, has now been spayed but refuses to leave the house for more than 15 minutes at a time. She has picked out the best place in the house to sleep -- well, second best -- she would be right in the middle of the bed I share with Booger and Gucci if Booger would let her.

It is obvious to me that these "dumb" animals are controlling much of my life and that probably makes them smarter than I. Having animals that are smart is fun, but I'm not so sure about having a cell phone that's smarter than I.

I have a new phone because the old one had become a bit cantankerous as a result of being dropped repeatedly on its head over a period of several years. I specifically asked for a "dumb" phone to replace it and apparently got the dumbest one the store had.

That's why, when I was wending my way to bed Monday night, I was surprised to hear a voice saying, "Please say a command." I thought I must have missed the button on the television in the kitchen, but a quick look assured me that it was off. No radio was on, but the voice, quite feminine but also commanding, once again said, "Please say a command."

The second time I heard it, I realized the voice was coming from my robe pocket. The only thing in my robe pocket was the new cell phone, the dumb cell phone that was supposed to let me make calls, take calls, text and take pictures. That dumb cell phone was talking to me and what's more was asking me to do something.

So I did as it asked. I said, "Call Lucinda." It immediately answered, "Calling Lucinda, mobile 1," and after two rings, Lucinda answered.

Now I want to know how that phone did that. I didn't "teach" it to understand Lucinda's name or later, Hannah's name, or Wakefield Elementary School's name. All those names and more are in my contact list and some of the names in my contact list are a little hard to pronounce and I'm a pretty fair linguist. But whatever I have verbally asked the phone to do, it has done instantly and without a bobble.

How does it "know" how to do that? When I had Furbies, which I dearly loved, they had to be taught, but this little hand-held device seems to already know. And that, folks is pretty scary when we are talking about the dumbest phone the store had in stock. Just think what a really smart phone might take it in its head to do!





Capitol Watch

By Larry Phillips, State Representative



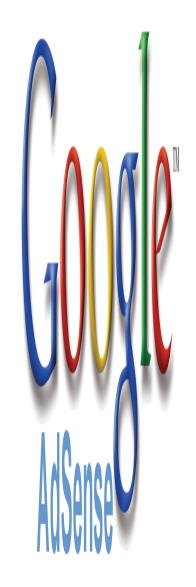
Office of Injured Employee Counsel

Over the next few weeks, I will be writing about the duties of various state agencies. The Texas Department of Insurance not only oversees insurance companies in Texas, it also contains the State Fire Marshall, Workers' Compensation Division, the Office of the Injured Employee Counsel, and the Office of Public Insurance Counsel. This week, I will discuss the Office of Injured Employee Counsel. In 2006, the Office of Injured Employee Counsel (OIEC) was created within the Texas Department of Insurance. The mission of the Counsel is to assist, educate, and advocate on behalf of the injured employees of Texas.

The Counsel's website is a wealth of information for workers. An employee can report an injury, find out their rights and responsibilities, and request assistance from the OIEC through an ombudsman. An Ombudsman is a specially trained employee of the Office of Injured Employee Counsel (OIEC) who can assist an employee with a dispute with the employer's insurance carrier free of charge. Each OIEC ombudsman has a workers' compensation insurance claims adjuster's license and has completed a comprehensive training program designed specifically for OIEC ombudsmen. Upon request, the ombudsman can: help an employee prepare for benefit review conferences; help prepare for benefit contested case hearings; attend benefit review conferences and benefit contested cases hearing with an employee and communicate on their behalf; and help prepare appeals and answer carrier appeals to the appeals panel of the Division of Workers' Compensation.

The website also has information on workers' compensation benefits, safety resources, and relevant federal and state legislation. The Office of Injured Employee Counsel can be reached by calling 1-866-EZE-OIEC, or through the website at www.oiec.texas.gov. For more information on these charges or any other matter of state government, please contact my office by writing to P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768-2910 or by emailing me at larry.phillips@house.state.tx.us. My district office phone number is (903) 891-7297.







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<u>Texas Records and Information Locator (TRAIL)</u> searches and locates information from over 180 Texas state agency web services.

<u>The Handbook of Texas Online</u> is a multidisciplinary encyclopedia of Texas history, geography, and culture sponsored by the Texas State Historical Association and the General Libraries at UT Austin.

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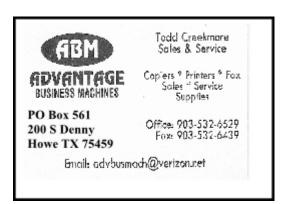
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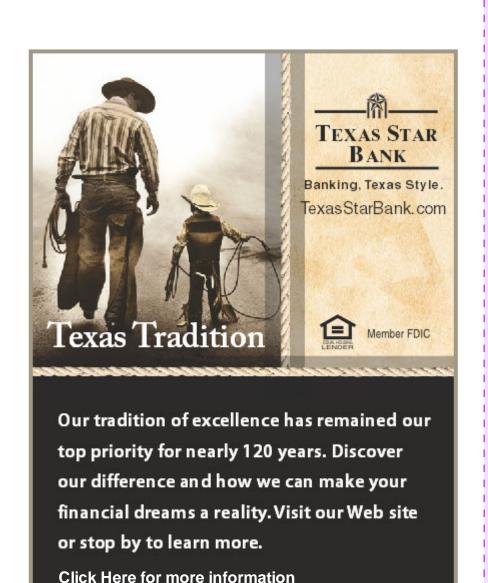


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Psalms 100:1-5 (KJV)

1 Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.

2 Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

3 Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

5 For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all

Christian **Fellowship**

Each Sunday morning A Christian Fellowship starts the morning with coffee and doughnut fellowship at 9 am followed by Sunday School classes for all ages from the cradle to adult classes at 9:30. Worship service begins at 10:30. This week's service is led by Mike Ball. Dress is casual.

Praise and worship is led by David Ellis and is a contemporary style service.

Each Sunday morning the congregation celebrates The Lord's Supper during the worship service.

The church host's a "movie night" every month. This "free" event includes free hot buttered popcorn, candy, and drinks. The movie in May will be on May 18 @ 6:30 pm. The movie to be shown will be announced at a later day, but promises to be something fun and totally enjoyable. Join them for a great movie! Bring your family out for a free night of fellowship and fun.

C R Men's Step Study group has been put on hold for now. This class is for recovering alcoholics that would like to reconnect with God. Please contact Jesse @ 903-744-2716 for more information on this program.

Wednesday night begins at 6:30pm with a pot-luck dinner followed by praise and worship and a devotional.

The church will be hosting VBS July 16-20 from 6:30-8:30pm. So mark your calendar for this event.

For more information about any event please contact myself, Cathy Hossle @903-814-5381 or Mike Ball @903-870-0219. Our church is located on the West side of Hwy 11 in Luella. Look for the red brick building with the green metal roof on the hill. The cross will light the way for you.



Tom Bean **Church of Christ**

The Tom Bean Church of Christ invites everyone to come and worship with us. Services begin each Sunday with Bible class for all ages at 9 am and worship at 10 am. The evening worship service begins at 6 pm. The Lord's Supper is given each Sunday. The morning and evening lessons are brought by Kerry King with congregational singing lead by Charles Counts. Wednesday, we have Bible classes for all ages beginning at 7 pm. The church is located at the corner of FM902 and FM2729 South in Tom Bean,

We have two radio programs each Sunday at 7:30 am on KFYN 1420AM and KFYZ 93.5FM. The lessons are brought by A.C. Ouinn.

"A Woman's Choice" a WEB video concerning a woman's pregnancy can be seen on www.PregnancyDecisions.org.

The Gospel of Christ news letter can be found at

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All Laws of God For All Mankind?

By Willie Sofey

In Matthew 4:4 when satan tempted Jesus to satisfy His flesh.., Jesus responded "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD". Jesus was quoting the Word of God given to Moses in Deut. 8:3 some 1450 years earlier.

The Ten Commandments given to Moses were to be obeyed by all mankind, not just the nation of Israel. As the apostle Paul explained to the Gentile Corinthians, "All these things happened to Israel as examples, and they were written for our (all mankind, my add) admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come" (1Cor. 10:11).

In trying to understand the 4th commandment given to Moses on Mt. Sinai in 1445 B.C., (Ex. 20:8-11).., "therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy"..., (v.11)..., I will acknowledge God's Word after the creation.," "Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it" (Gen. 2:3, Heb. 4:4 and 4:10).

The 7th day Sabbath is a sanctified memorial of God's creation (4000 B.C.), a law to be observed by Israel as a commandment given to Moses (1450 B.C.).., and Jesus observed the Sabbath (Luke 4:16).., justifying the importance of keeping the commandments.., "if you want to enter life, keep the commandments" (Matt. 19:17).

The apostle Paul observed the Sabbath by teaching to both Jew and Gentile, to the Greek Thessalonians (Acts 17:2-3), and Gentile Corinthians (Acts 18:4, Acts 13:42-44). Paul instructed the Corinthians to "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ" (1Cor. 11:1).

The writer, Tertullian (202 A.D.) wrote of Christians observing Sunday (1st day) as a Sabbath because of Sunday being Christ's resurrection day. However, a study of the Jewish calendar and the Bible indicates that Christ's resurrection actually took place on the Sabbath (7th day).

*The Jewish day is from sunrise to sunrise. Jesus died on Wednesday before the day ended at sunset, (before the Holy Day beginning the Feast of Unleavened Bread).

Jesus fulfilled the 3-day (72 hr.) in the tomb & heart of the earth, as Jonah was in the belly of a fish for 3 days and 3 nights (Matt. 12:39-40).

*When Mary Magdalene went to Jesus' tomb on the 1st day of the week (Sunday), "It was still dark and saw the stone already taken away" (John 20:1). Since it was still dark.., the beginning of the day at sunrise for Sunday the 1st day had not arrived and Jesus had arisen from the grave on the Jewish 7th day Sabbath, or Saturday..., prior to sunset on the 7th day, being on Saturday the Sabbath in order to fulfill the 72-hour prophesy of matt. 12:39-40.

The 4th century Roman Emperor Constantine who merged the pagan worshipping practices of Rome with Christianity for political reasons edicted into law the Sunday worship for Christianity who was himself a sun-worshipper.

Some historians place Constantine's birth on December 25, on which date the pagan Romans worshipped the birth of the unconquered sun.

The historian Clement of Alexandria as well as some chronologists date Christ's birthdate.., April 19, some May 20, and Clement's choice of November 17. (Will Durant - "The History of Civilization Volume 3, Caesar and Christ", pg. 558).

Jesus was born 6 months after his cousin John the Baptist, (Luke 1:26-37). Historians place John's birth (according to the Jewish calendar) in the spring of the year, which would place Jesus' birth in late September or early October.

The placing of the birth of Jesus on December 25 by the Roman church was another one of Constantine's & his Roman church's ploys to satisfy the religiouspolitico appetite of pagan and Christian bonding.

Rome under Constantine in the 4th century birthed the Roman church that not only changed God's times, but polluted the Holy day of Passover with the introduction of Easter (a pagan worship to the goddess of fertility.., Ishtar).

Some 870 years earlier, the Prophet Daniel spoke of a time when the last leader (anti-Christ) of the revived Roman empire would "oppress God's saints and try to change the set times and the laws" (of God, my add), Daniel 7:25.

The 4th century ruler Constantine, I believe was a precursor to the future last ruler of the Roman Empire Daniel prophesied

Several years later, the Roman church passed a decree at the Council of Laodicea declaring "Christians must not judaize by resting on the Sabbath"..., and anyone that observes the Sabbath would be "declared anathema from Christ" (A History of the Councils of the Church, p. 316).

These anti-Jewish sentiments were the beginnings of a long history of atrocities against Jews and apostolic believing Christians. These beliefs are contrary to Jesus' words... e.g. "For salvation is from the Jews" (John 4:22). Paul expresses the Laws of God are for both Jew and Gentile and that the law is not nullified through f in Christ as Christians. (Rom. 3:29-31).

Jesus said He was the Lord of the Sabbath (Mark 2:27-28). The "Lord's Day" is known as the 1,000 year millennium rule beginning with Christ's return to earth to rule (Rev. 1:10).

Jesus fulfilled the law.., "I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in His love" (John 15:10).

In the rule of Christ in the Millennium kingdom to come to earth.., "And from Sabbath to Sabbath, ALL mankind will come to bow down before Me, says the Lord" (Isaiah 66:23).

For the faithful believers of Christ... everyday should be the Lord's day, however I believe the Holy memorial Day of the biblical Sabbath is a sanctified day of special rest and worship to our loving God Creator and a commandment to be obeyed by all till Jesus comes and by all who will live in the millennium rule of Christ as Prophesied by Isaiah 66:23.

Seeking to Understand God's Word,

Willie Sofey





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LEGAL TIPS:

Estate Planning & Resolutions

By Matt Sullivan, J.D., LL.M. Attorney & Counselor at Law

Many people resolve to improve themselves for each New Year. For example, they promise to change their diet, lose weight, and avoid voting for liberal politicians. Shouldn't estate planning be on your list of resolutions?

First, what would happen to your kids if something happened to you? Have you taken the time to have your estate planning documents properly prepared and executed? Some of the most important documents to consider are a Will, Durable Power of Attorney, Directive to Physicians, Medical Power of Attorney, HIPAA Release, and a Declaration of Guardian. Each document plays an important part in the overall plan. The Will can be used to dispose of your property upon your death. Within it, you can also establish trusts and appoint guardians for your kids. A Durable Power of Attorney will authorize someone to act on your behalf if you are unable to do so. The Directive to Physicians is also known as a Living Will and is your opportunity to state in writing how you want to be treated in an end-of-life situation. The Medical Power of Attorney will allow someone to make most medical decisions for you if you can't. The HIPAA Release will allow your representative to obtain your medical information. The Declaration of Guardian can be used to appoint or prevent someone from being appointed as your guardian and it can be used to appoint a guardian for your children.

Second, when was the last time you reviewed the title to your assets or the beneficiary designations of assets you own? These can be extremely important issues in the event of a person's death. Assets that have properly filled out beneficiary designations will be paid to the beneficiary regardless of what is stated in the owner's Will. Such assets include life insurance, IRAs, and 401(k)s to name a few.

Third, what would happen to your pets if you died or became disabled and weren't able to care for them? Pets are extremely important to many people and should be considered when preparing an estate plan.

While estate planning may not be the most fun or exciting undertaking, it can be extremely important and beneficial for your family.

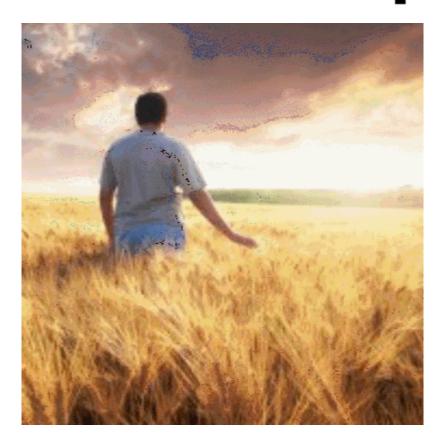
Matt Sullivan, J.D., LL.M., Attorney & Counselor at Law, can be reached at 903-482-0099 or through his law firm's web site, www.mattsullivanattorney.com.

This article is not intended as specific legal advice and you should consult with your own attorney.





Howe, Texas 75459



A grassroots win for the good guys

By Nathan Smith, Field Editor It's a case study in grassroots power.

A half-cocked rule aimed at restricting young people's activity on the farm was shot down last week when the Labor Department (DOL) withdrew the proposal.

It's nothing new to hear of an agency changing their mind, but this time the DOL had help.

The proposal to ban youth from working on farms was withdrawn after thousands of comments—many from Texas farming families—expressed concern about the effects the rule would have on day-to-day farm activities.

It's another perfect example of what can happen when farmers and ranchers stand together. The message sent to Washington was clear. It was unified and it resulted in change.

This victory belongs to the nearly 200 Texas farmers and ranchers who made trips to Washington in the months leading up to the announcement to tell their Congressmen and Senators how the rule would impact life on the farm. In fact, just one week before the announcement came, a large group of Texas Farm Bureau members met with elected officials and discussed challenges facing Texas agriculture.

It belongs to the thousands of rural families who called and sent emails to representatives. It belongs to Chris Chinn, a mother and

Missouri hog farmer, and others like her, who offered compelling testimony in front of Congress to defend her family's way of life.

Farmers and ranchers are committed to safety and hold themselves responsible for the well-being of all employees and workers, especially teenagers. Working in agriculture gives young people the chance to learn the value of hard work. It also assures the next generation of farmers and ranchers to grow food and fiber for America.

It's hard for today's farmers to imagine growing up on a farm and not driving a tractor. In fact, where would we be today if farmers hadn't been allowed to work alongside older generations?

At a young age, farmers were driving farm equipment, repairing fence, working with animals, using power tools and learning to weld. Everyday jobs like these would have been outlawed if the Labor Department had carried through with their plans.

Thankfully, for American family farms, cooler heads have prevailed—for now. Yet, the mindset that led DOL officials to this point is still there. And we will see more attempts to disrupt family farms.

This win serves as a pattern for other challenges that lie ahead. There are still many issues facing Texas agriculture. And a grassroots voice is one of the best tools farmers and ranchers have.

Hats off to farmers and ranchers everywhere for a job well done. Keep up the good work.



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Bruce E. Maniet, D.O., P.A.

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Pay Gap - Erroneous Assumption

Equal Pay Day was Tuesday, April 17, 2012. But ever since its founding in 1996, this event is based on erroneous assumptions. It is meant to illustrate the gap between men's and women's wages. But is there really such a gap?

The idea to select a Tuesday as Equal Pay Day was to represent how far into the work week women must work to earn what men earned the previous week. A date in April was selected which would mark the day when a woman's earnings catch up to what her male counterpart earned in the previous year. According to some statistics (from http://www.pay-equity.org/),women now earn 77.4 cents for every dollar men earn.

The first time I heard that women earn less than men, I nearly choked on my food (served by a waitress who earns more than I do) at the cafe (owned by a woman who earns more than I do) before returning to work (for a woman who earns more than I do).

What is implied -- but not stated -- in the '77 cent mantra' is that such inequality is due to discrimination. This is an erroneous assumption.

The first assumption is that the statement is based on straight wages. It is not! Men do earn more than women but it is based on a number of factors.

- * Men, on average, work more hours (even in cases where both report full-time employment, the average man works six hours more per week than the average woman).
- * Their job entails more hazardous assignments (92% of workplace deaths occur to men, even more for battlefield fatalities).
- * They are more apt to move overseas or to an undesirable location (off-shore work, anyone?).
- * Men often accept more-technical jobs with less people contact (most engineers are men, same with accountants).

Judging from the job choices they make, women are more likely to balance income with a desire for safety, fulfillment, potential for personal growth, flexibility and proximity-to-home. These are not bad things.

The 'Equal Pay Day' folks have re-defined earnings as payment for the same hours for the same work. But this contains erroneous assumptions as well.

Many women have gaps in their employment that were spent in giving care for their children. In my personal experience, I subjugated my career to be a stay-at-home dad. When I reentered the workforce, I did not expect to earn as much as my friends who stayed on the job. No discrimination here. Not every woman takes time off from work -- but enough do such that it skewers the statistics.

When I did re-enter the workforce, I accepted a job that entailed 30 hours a week so I could pick up my son from school and spend time with him on weekends. My co-worker who worked 40 hours a week -- and was always available for overtime -- received promotions more than me. Again, there was no prejudice. Even though two people may do the same job, the person with more experience receives the larger salary.

Statistics offered by the pay gap people will lump the salaries of all medical doctors together. This erroneous assumption falls apart when one realizes that male physicians are more likely than women to pursue higher-stress specialties with unpredictable hours, thus enjoying greater pay.

The 'Occupy Protests' brought to light an interesting observation. The top one percent of the population control 42 percent of our country's wealth. Because the vast majority of these one percenters are men, their earnings skew the statistics for women all the way down the line. Chances are, you and I will never be in the one percent, but their earnings can cause a lot of erroneous assumptions.

Yet, the 'Equal Pay' folks insist on believing women are at a disadvantage in the ordinary workplace. Erroneous assumption again! According to a 2010 Time magazine article (http://www.time.com/time/business/article/0,8599,2015274,00.ht

ml), "in 147 out of 150 of the biggest cities in the U.S., the median full-time salaries of young women are 8% higher than those of the guys in their peer group."

It is much the same in the United Kingdom. The Independent (http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/young-women-now-earn-more-than-men-2364675.html) reported in 2011 figures by the Universities and Colleges Admission Service that show "women aged between 22 and 29 in employment are now earning more on average per hour than men of the same age."

Dr. Warren Farrell (former board member of the New York National Organization for Women), arrived at the same conclusion in his book, "Why Men Earn More" (http://www.warrenfarrell.net/Summary/); "women earn more when they work equal hours at the same job with the same size of responsibility for the same length of time with equal productivity, etc."

An oft repeated argument against such 'politically incorrect' beliefs is the charge of a hatred of women. But just as patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel, the first defense of a misandrist is to pull out the 'misogynist' label. It is not sexist to recognize the truth. Who exhibits the greater bias: the one who believes women are poor helpless creatures who need governmental favoritism, or the one who believes women are whole and strong and able to be treated equally in any situation?

Name-calling is not the only propaganda technique used by the 'Equal Pay' party. The adage, 'If you repeat a lie often enough, it becomes the truth,' has been bouncing around since the days of the Nazi Party. Perhaps some people have come to believe discrimination is the cause of income disparity because it has been repeated so loudly for so long.

The pay gap contingent will have none of these facts. They insist that, all things being equal, women make less than men and it's because of prejudice. The erroneous assumption is apparent when considering self-employed women. In his article, "Men Don't Have it Easy Either," Marty Nemko finds that working women who have no boss (they own their own business) "earn only 49% of what the average male business owner earns." A Rochester Institute of Technology study may explain this. It was found that money was the primary motivator for only 29 percent of women versus 76 percent of men. According to Nemko, "Women put a premium on shorter work weeks, proximity to home, fulfillment, autonomy, and safety."

More females than males finish high school. More women than men enter -- and finish -- college. Why is this not reflected in wages? The correlation between education and earnings is not a myth. What is a myth is the erroneous assumption that men earn more than women due to prejudice.

If women earned less than men for the same work, why would anyone hire a man? "Ah, ha," the pay gappers may exclaim, "this accounts for the he-cession." Well, no. That is another erroneous assumption. The majority of jobs that were lost in the recession were in the 'high-dollar' blue-collar industries like construction; jobs that most women avoid.

The Equal Pay Act was passed in 1963 to abolish wage disparity based on sex. So why do we need additional governmental regulation? If a woman believes she earns less than a man due to discrimination, she can take it to federal court.

Where are these women who earn 77 cents for every dollar a man earns anyway? One could save 23 cents on the dollar if he or she sought treatment from a female dentist. Want to cut your legal expenses? Hire a woman lawyer! Think how much taxpayers are saving for enlisting all those women soldiers. And Americans save money for every woman senator, representative, mayor, and secretary of state. The taxpayer must be saving millions!

No, this is an erroneous assumption. Just as the gender pay gap is an erroneous assumption.

Don Mathis, San Antonio, TX



Texoma Enterprise

IDIOTS AT WORK:

I was signing the receipt for my credit card purchase when the clerk noticed I had never signed my name on the back of the credit card. She informed me that she could not complete the transaction unless the card was signed. When I asked why, she explained that it was necessary to compare the signature I had just signed on the receipt. So I signed the credit card in front of her. She carefully compared the signature to the one I had just signed on the receipt. As luck would have it, they matched.

IDIOTS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

I live in a semi rural area. We recently had a new neighbor call the local township administrative office to request the removal of the Deer Crossing sign on our road. The reason:

"too many deer were being hit by cars" and he didn't want them to cross there anymore.

IDIOTS IN FOOD SERVICE:

My daughter went to a local Taco Bell and ordered a taco. She asked the person behind the counter for minimal lettuce." He said he was sorry, but they only had iceberg.

IDIOT SIGHTING

When my husband and I arrived at an automobile dealership to pick up our car, we were told the keys had been locked in it. We went to the service department and found a mechanic working feverishly to unlock the driver's side door. As I watched from the passenger side, I instinctively tried the door handle and discovered that it was unlocked. "Hey," I announced to the technician, "It's open!" To which he replied, "I know - I already got that side."

IDIOT SIGHTING

I was at the airport, checking in at the gate when an airport employee asked, "Has anyone put anything in your baggage without your knowledge?" To which I replied, "If it was without my knowledge, how would I know? "He smiled knowingly and nodded, "That's why we ask."

OUTZKIRTS By: David & Doreen Dotson









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Texoma Enterprise is owned and operated by Dale and Lana Rideout. They have been doing this since 1978. The picture on the left is about 5 years old, with Dale shown as "Santa" Rideout at Christmas, 2009. The family shot on the right includes all our grandchildren, plus a couple of Stepgrandchildren. It was taken at Elves Christmas Tree Farm. This farm opened to the public in 1990 when Jordan was only 2 months old and he went there with us. Every year since we have taken every grandchild with us. This year was our 20 year to take all our grandchildren to the farm.



Dale & Lana Rideout



"Santa", Amber, Dominique, Timothy, Jordan, Rachel, Caleb, Chris, Cassie, Brianna, Lana



"Santa" Rideout



Grandkids singing at the Christmas Tree Farm 2007

